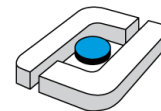




GTT Annual Workshop and User Meeting  
2-4 July 2014

# *Modelling Internal Corrosion of High Temperature Alloys*

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**Hochschule Osnabrück**  
University of Applied Sciences



**Institute of  
Materials Design and  
Structural Integrity**



# *Acknowledgment*

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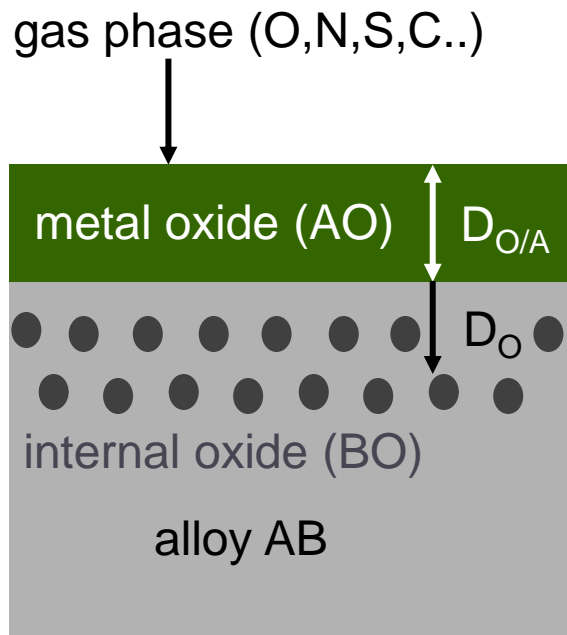
# *Outline*

- What is Internal Corrosion?
- Wagner's Theory of Internal Oxidation
- Limitations of the Classical Theory
- Numerical Treatment of Internal Oxidation and Nitridation
  - Finite Difference
  - Cellular Automata

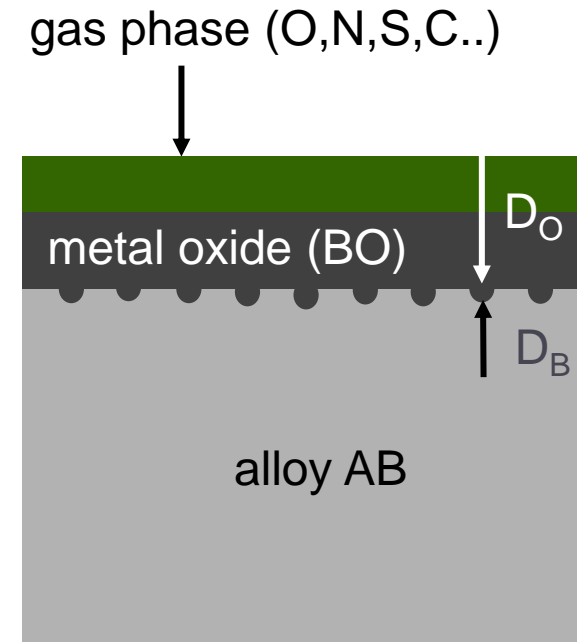


# What is Internal Corrosion?

high-temperature corrosion:  
superficial scale + internal oxidation



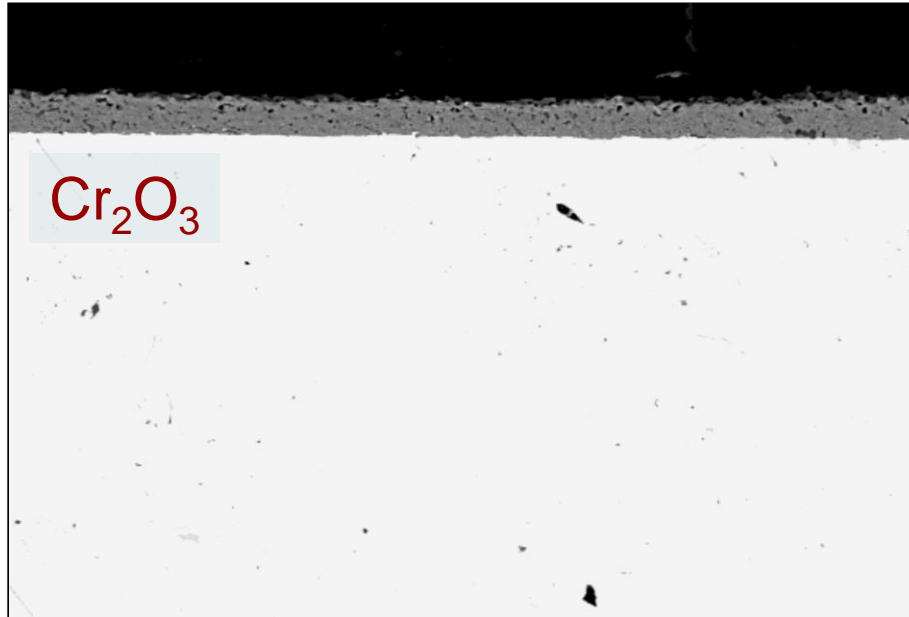
selective oxidation



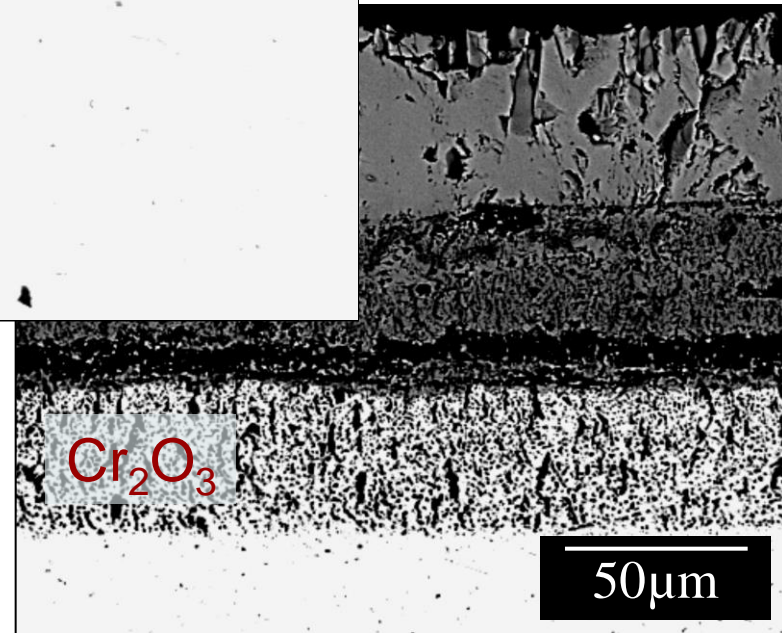


# Transition from Internal to External Oxidation Oxidation of Ni-Cr Alloys (100h, 1000°C, air)

20%Cr



5%Cr

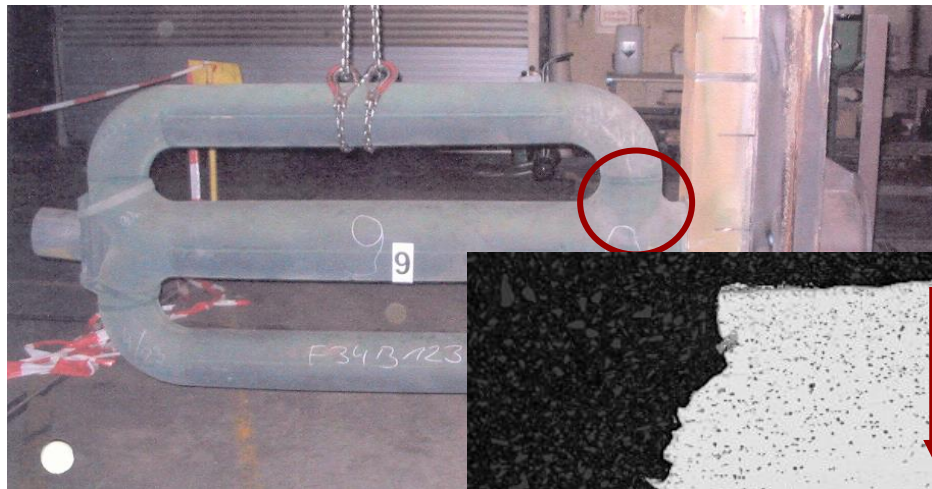


depends on:  
 $c_{\text{Cr}}/D_{\text{Cr}}/T$



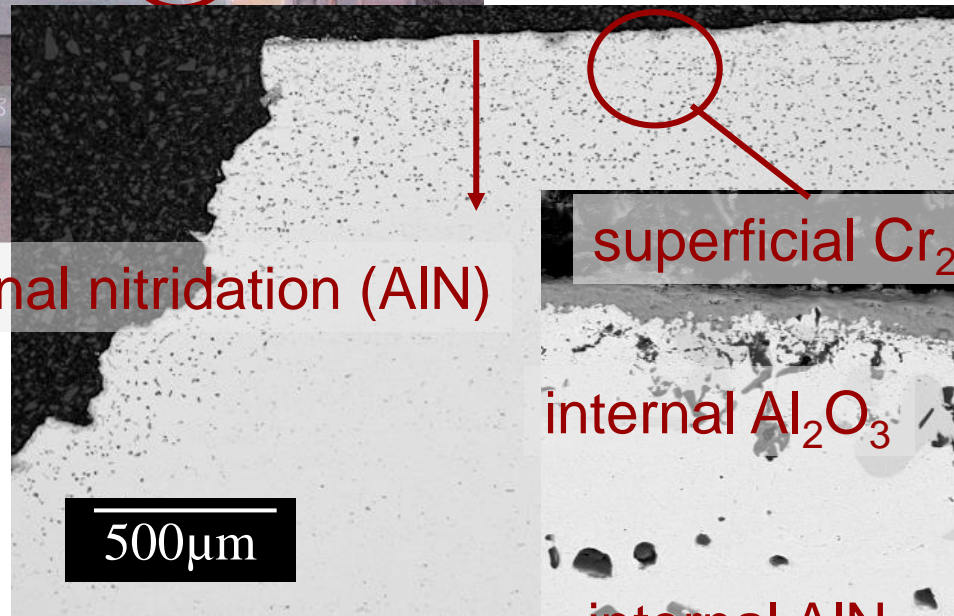
# Material Degradation by Internal Corrosion

gas and steam turbines, heat exchangers, chemical reactors, exhaust systems, metallurgy, heat treatment ...



(Natural Gas Burner Tube, alloy 601)

internal nitridation (AlN)



superficial  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$

internal  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$

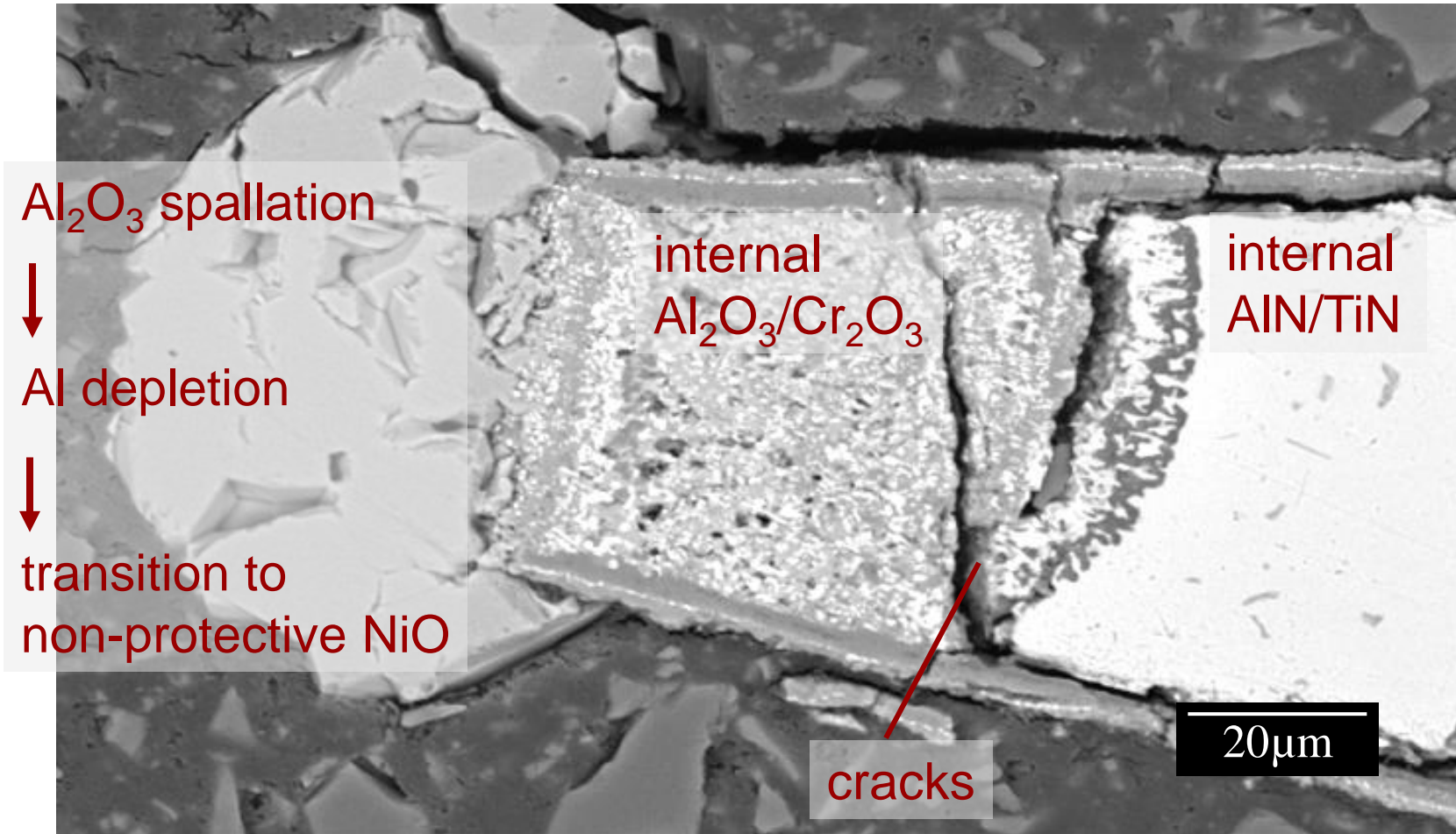
internal AlN

500µm

30µm



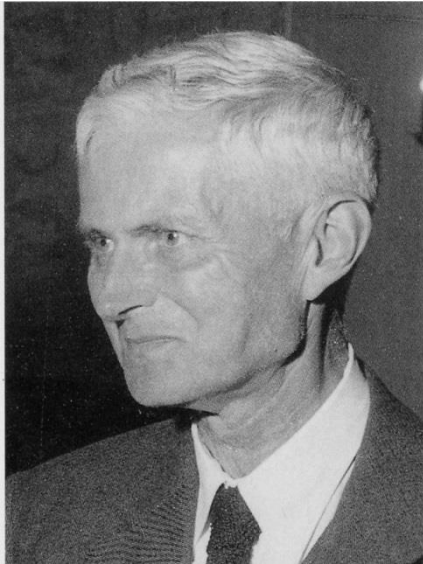
# Material Degradation during Cyclic Oxidation at 1100°C



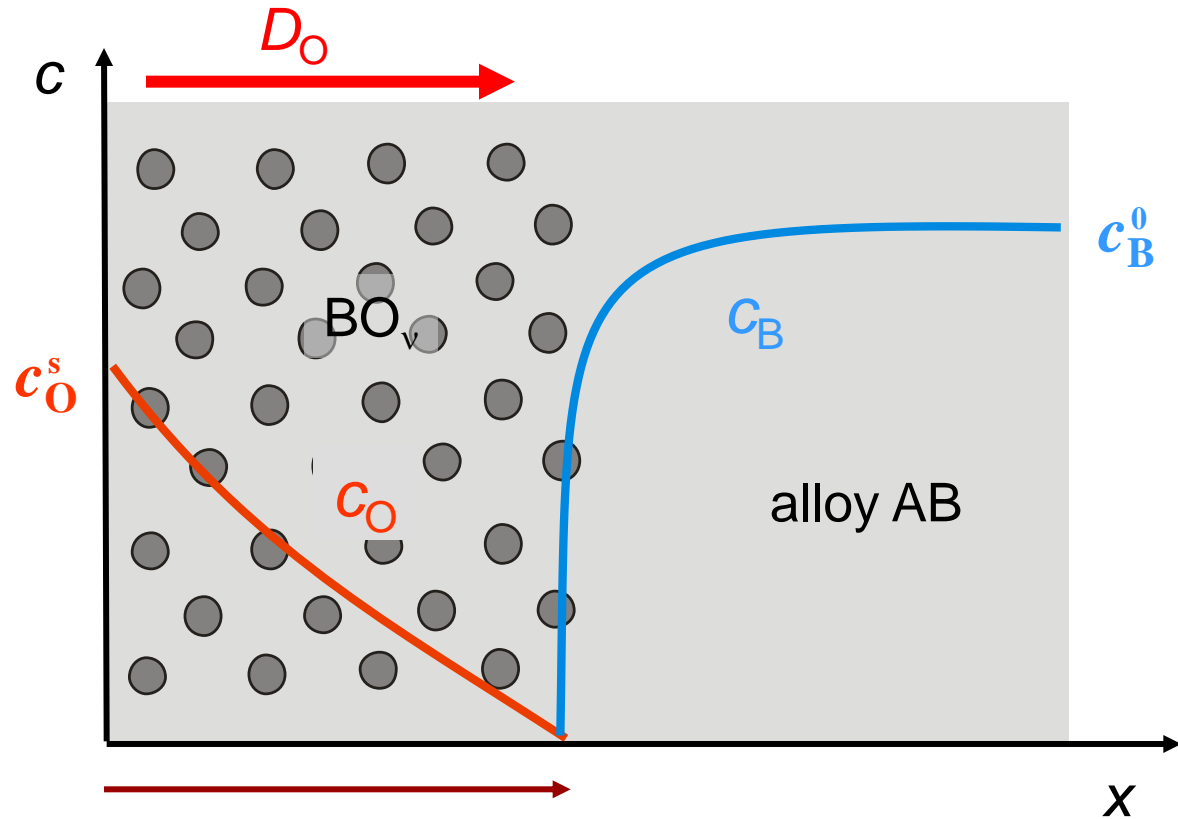
Wedge-Shaped Specimen CMSX-4 at 1100°C



# Carl Wagner's Theory of Internal Oxidation



Carl W. Wagner (1901-1977)



Depth of the Internal Precipitation Zone  $\xi$

$$\xi^2 = \frac{2c_o^s D_o}{vc_B^0} t \quad \text{for} \quad D_B/D_o \ll c_o^s/c_B^0 \ll 1$$





# Carl Wagner's Theory of Internal Oxidation

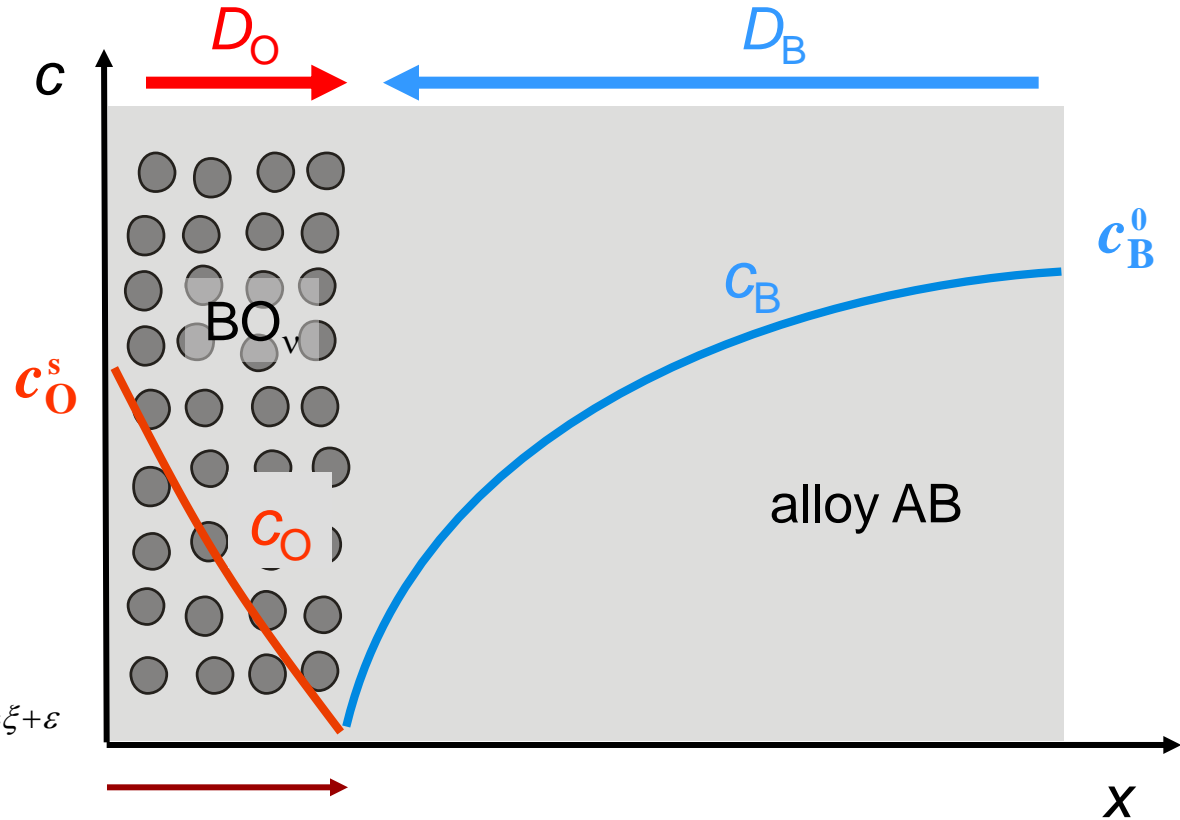
Diffusion of O and B:

$$c_O = c_O^s \left( 1 - \frac{\operatorname{erf}\left(x/2\sqrt{D_O t}\right)}{\operatorname{erf} \gamma} \right)$$

$$c_B = c_B^0 \left( 1 - \frac{\operatorname{erfc}\left(x/2\sqrt{D_B t}\right)}{\operatorname{erfc}\left(\gamma\sqrt{D_O/D_B}\right)} \right)$$

Mass Balance at  $\xi$ :

$$-D_O \left( \frac{\partial c_O}{\partial x} \right)_{x=\xi-\varepsilon} = v D_B \left( \frac{\partial c_B}{\partial x} \right)_{x=\xi+\varepsilon}$$



Depth of the Internal Precipitation Zone  $\xi$

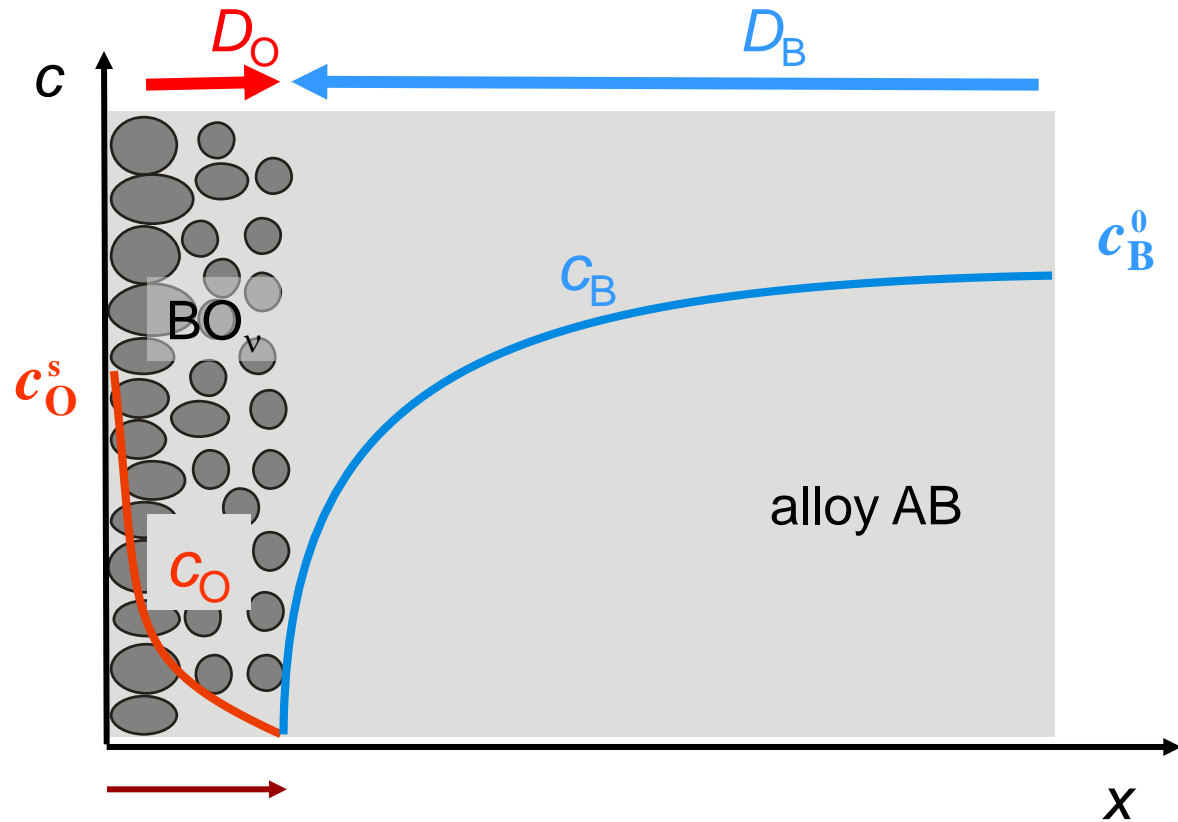
$$\xi^2 = \pi \frac{D_O^2}{D_B} \left( \frac{c_O^s}{v c_B^0} \right)^2 t \quad \text{for } \gamma \ll 1 \quad \gamma \sqrt{D_O/D_B} \ll 1$$



# Carl Wagner's Theory of Internal Oxidation

Mass Balance:  
 Mole fraction  $BO_v \Leftrightarrow$   
 B flux to reaction front

$$\frac{fAd\xi}{V_m} = \left[ \frac{AD_B}{V_m} \frac{\partial c_B}{\partial x} \right] dt$$



## Transition from Internal to External Oxidation

$$c_B^0 > \pi \left[ \frac{\pi g^*}{2\nu} c_O^s \frac{D_O V_m}{D_B V_{Ox}} \right] \text{ with } g^*: \text{ crit. volume fraction of oxide}$$



## *Limitations of Wagner's Analytical Approach*

**One type of precipitates** of high thermodynamic stability  
(solubility product  $K_{SP} = N_B N_O^v \approx 0$ )

**Constant boundary conditions** - no changes in  
temperature, gas composition etc. possible

**Effective diffusivity** - through complex microstructure,  
e.g.,  $D_{GB} > D_{bulk}$

**One-dimensional** - nucleation and growth kinetics / changes  
in the diffusion path are neglected



# Nucleation and Growth of Internal Precipitates (TiN and AlN in NiCr20Al2Ti2, 1000°C, 150h, N<sub>2</sub>)

## Energy Balance:

interface energy  $\gamma$

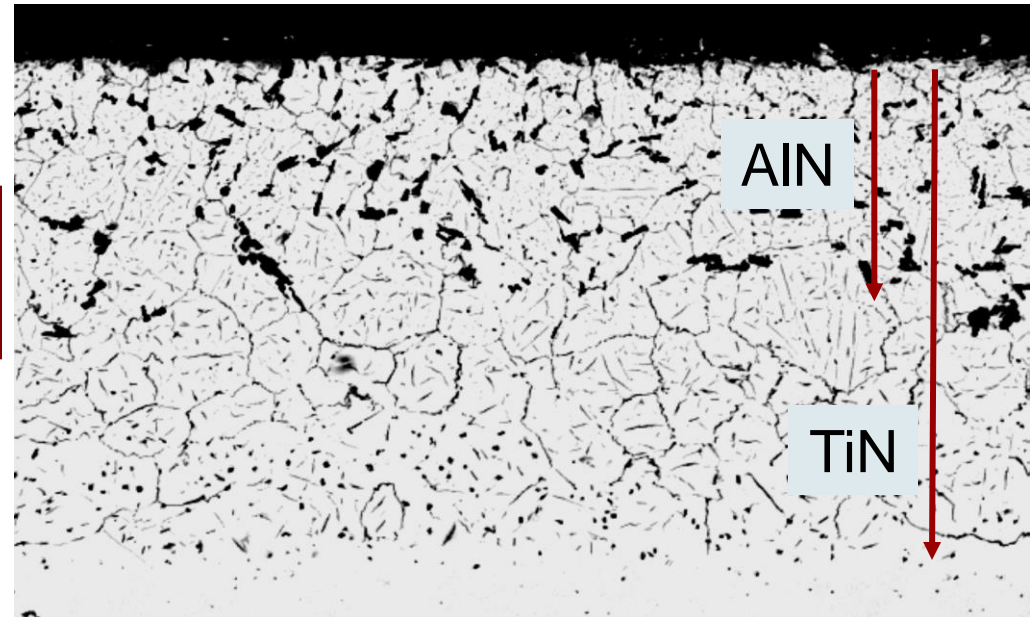
free energy change  $\Delta G$

strain energy  $\Delta G_s$

(defect site annihilation energy)

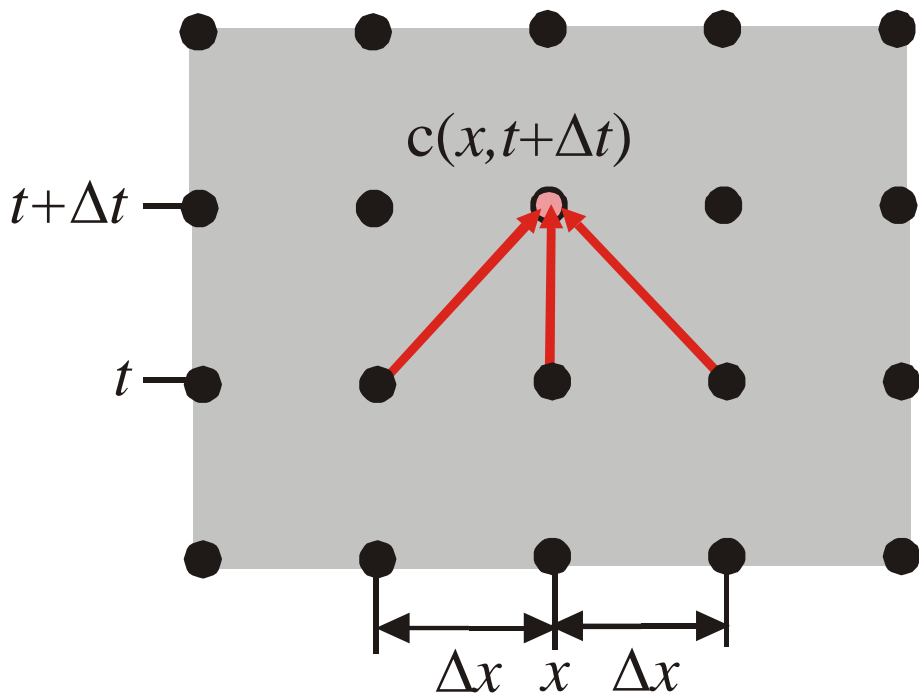
$$\Delta G = V(\Delta G_V + \Delta G_s) + \sum_i A_i \gamma_i$$

Supersaturation





# Finite-Difference Treatment of Diffusion



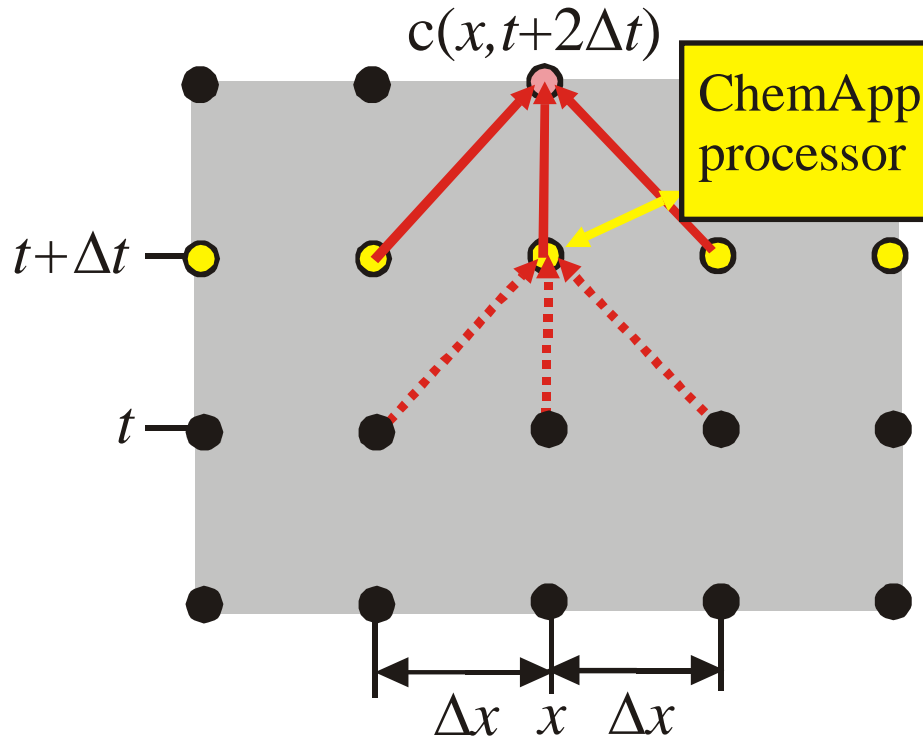
$$\frac{\partial c}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial c}{\partial t} \right)_{x,t} \approx \frac{c(x, t + \Delta t) - c(x, t)}{\Delta t}$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial^2 c}{\partial x^2} \right)_{x,t} \approx \frac{c(x + \Delta x, t) - 2c(x, t) + c(x - \Delta x, t)}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$c_i(x, t + \Delta t) = c(x, t) + \frac{D\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} [c(x - \Delta x, t) - 2c(x, t) + c(x + \Delta x, t)]$$

# Finite-Difference Treatment of Diffusion



computational thermodynamics  
 ChemApp + system data  
 (GTT technologies)

$$G = \sum_{j=1}^m c_j (G_{j,\text{pure}} + G_{j,\text{id}} + G_{j,\text{non-id}})$$

= min !

$$c(x, t + \Delta t) = c(x, t) + \frac{D\Delta t}{\Delta x^2} [c(x - \Delta x, t) - 2c(x, t) + c(x + \Delta x, t)]$$



# 2D Finite-Difference Treatment of Diffusion

(Crank Nicolson implicit approach)

$$D=f(x,y)$$

(e.g. PVM)

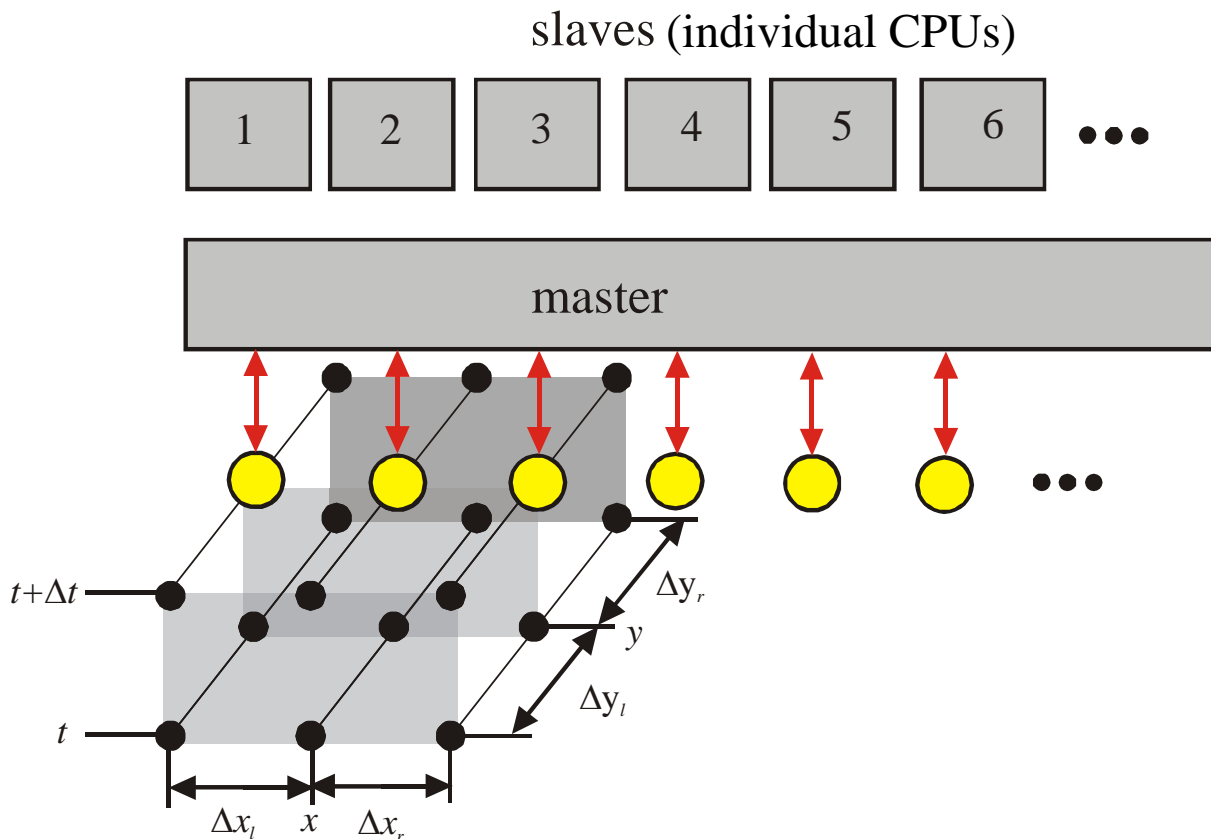
bulk and gb diffusion

**Parallelization**  
(e.g. PVM, GPU/CUDA)

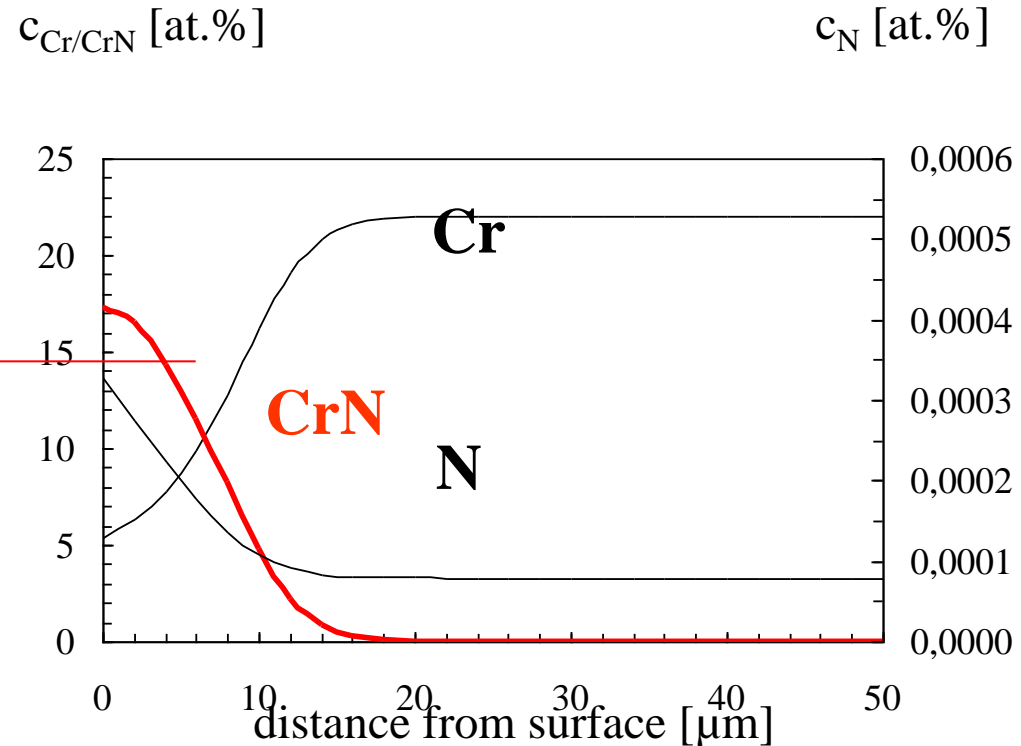
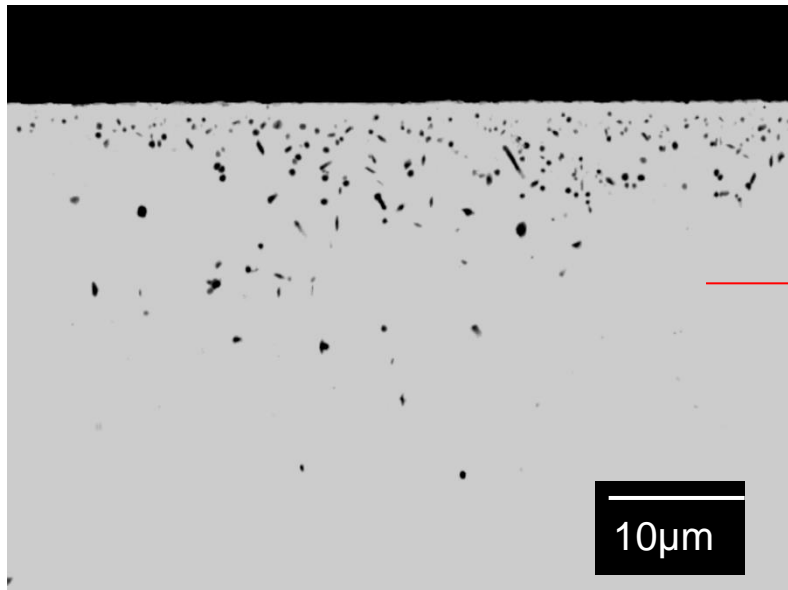
ChemApp / system  
data base initialisation  
distributed equilibrium  
calculations

**C – Main program**

FD diffusion calculation  
user interface



# Finite-Difference Simulation of Internal Precipitation of Cr-Nitrides of Moderate Stability (NiCr20, 800°C, N<sub>2</sub>)

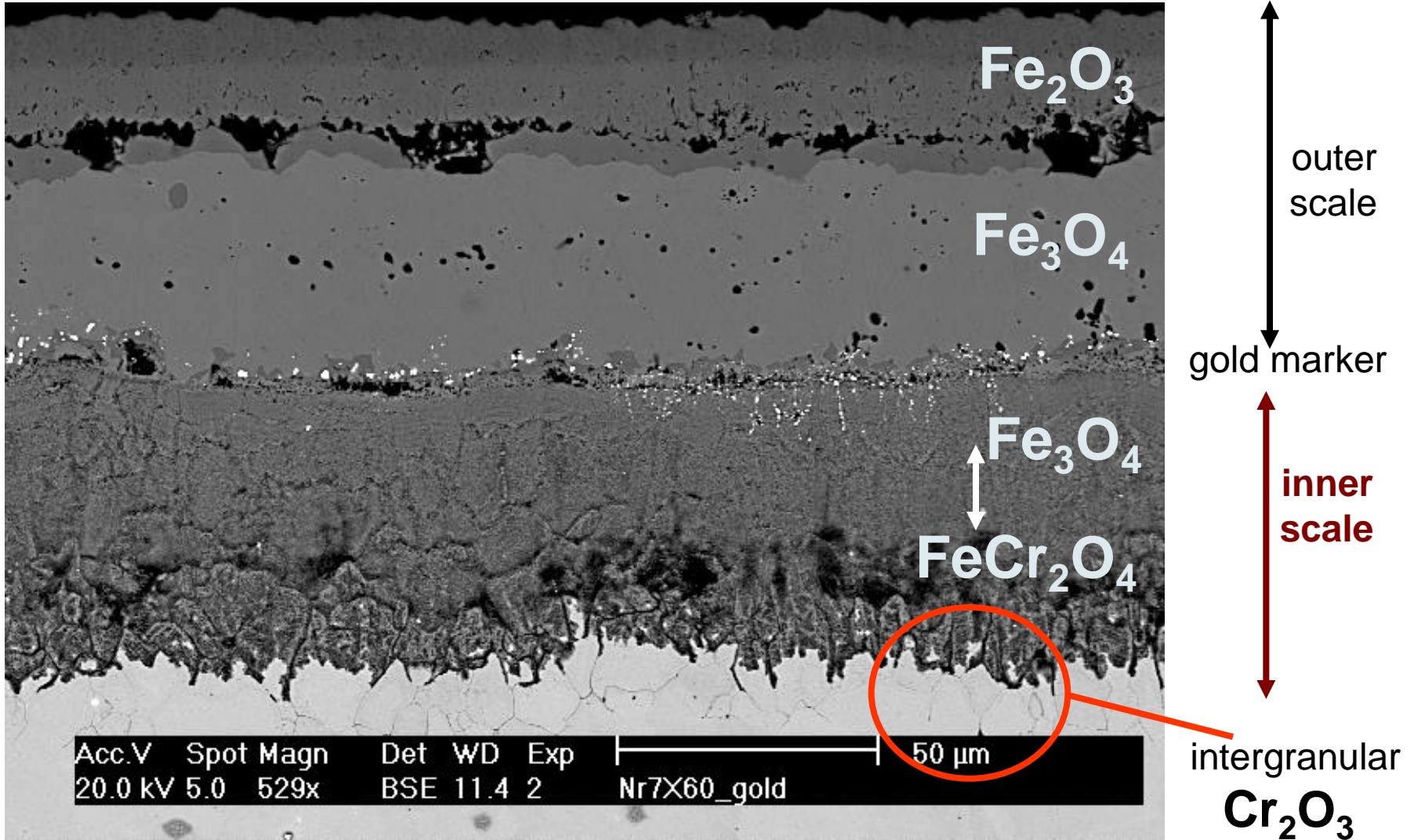






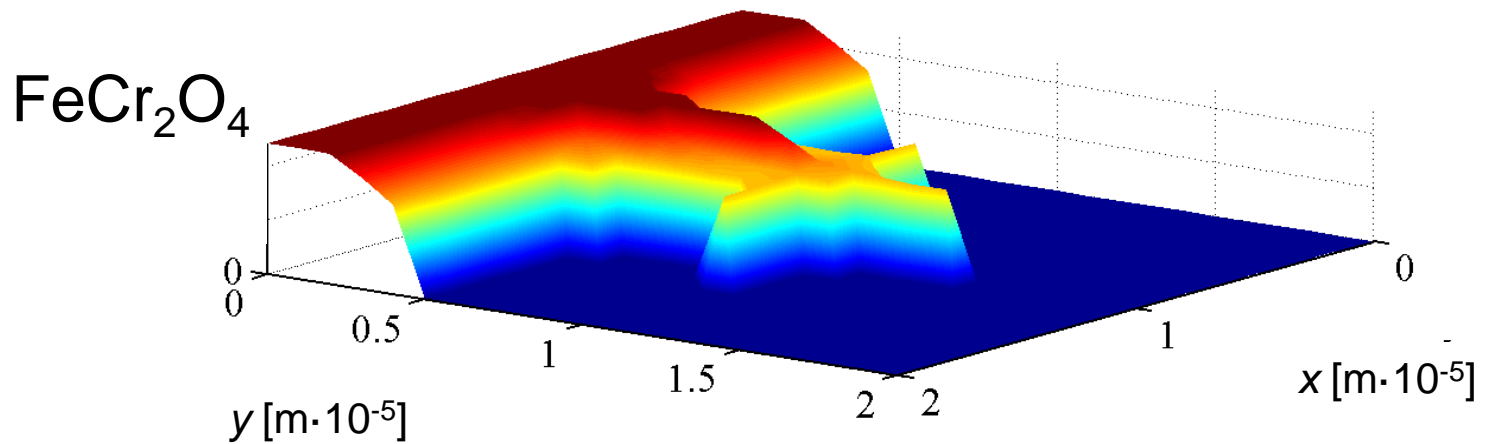
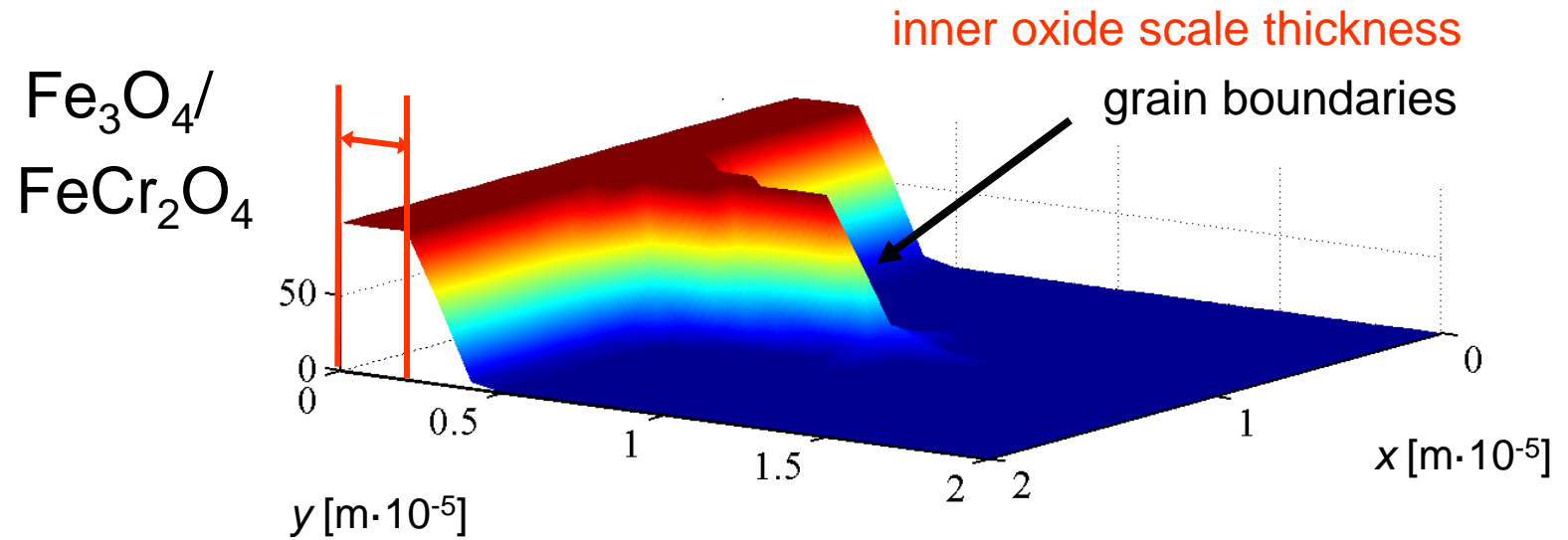
# Oxidation of Low-Cr Steels (X60)

(1.43wt% Cr, 550°C, air)



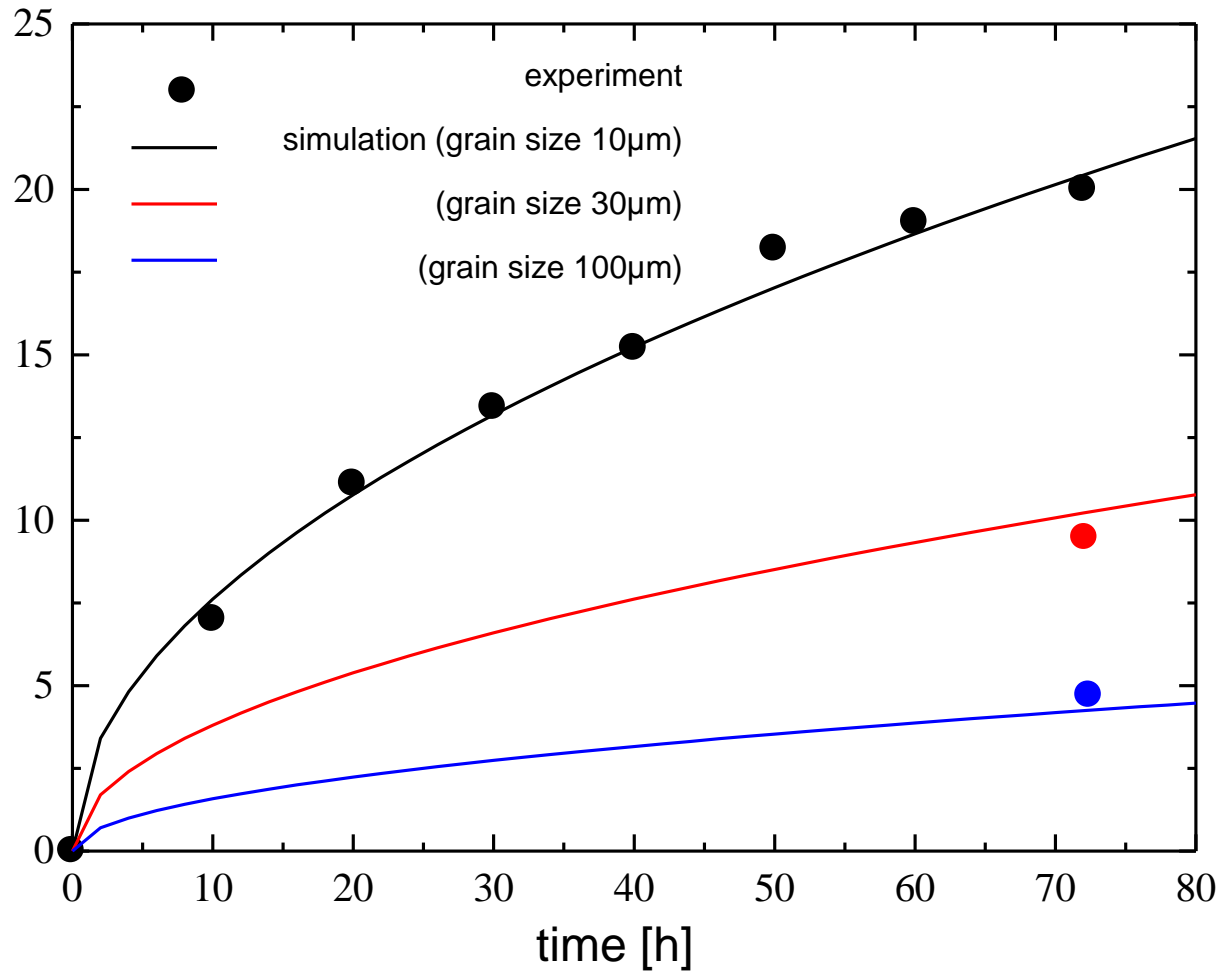


## 2D Simulation of Internal Oxidation



# Inner Oxide-Scale Growth (X60)

inner oxide-scale thickness [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]

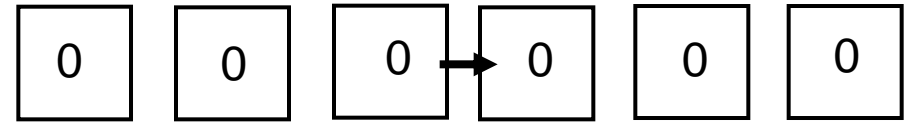


(1.43wt% Cr, 550°C, air)

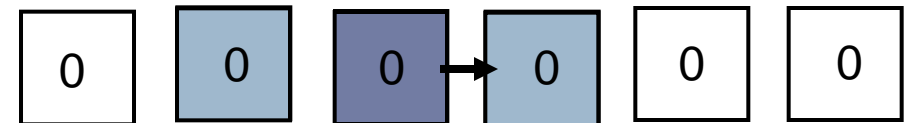


# The Cellular Automata Approach

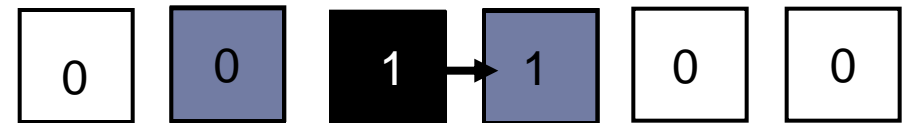
**Dividing Space into Lattice**



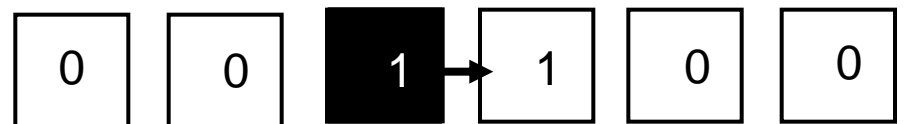
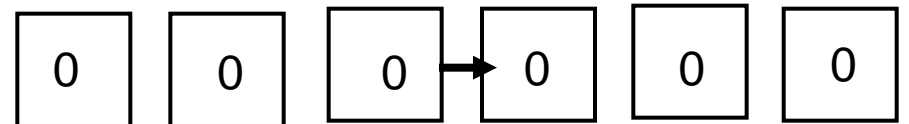
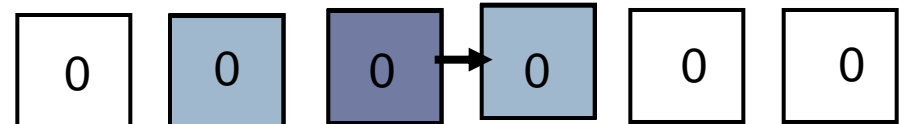
**Defining a Neighbourhood**  
(von Neumann, Moore)



**Defining State Variables**  
(e.g.: 0,1)



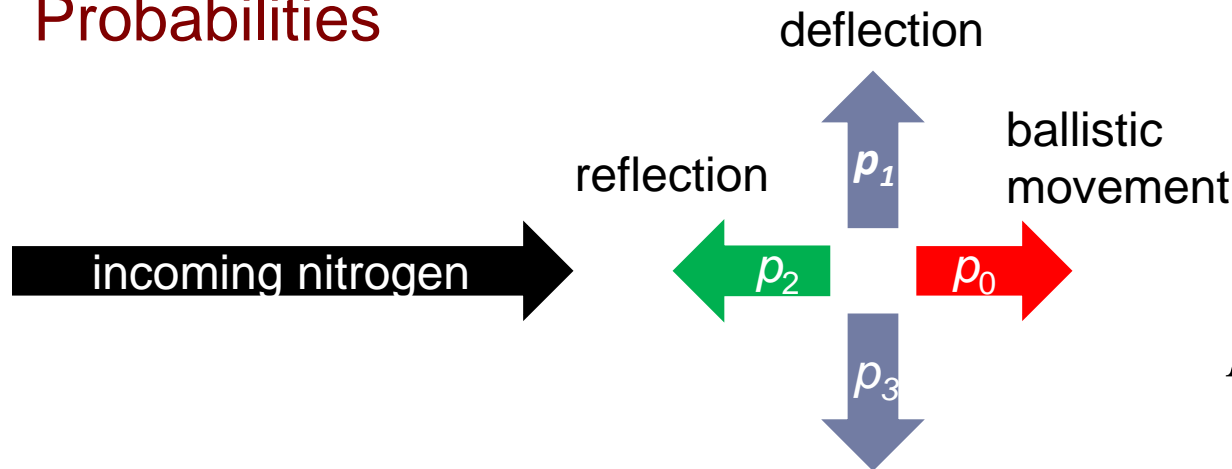
**Defining Transition Rules**  
(applied simultaneously to all cells)





# The Cellular Automata Approach (Chopard and Droz)

## Probabilities



$$p_1 = p_3 = p$$

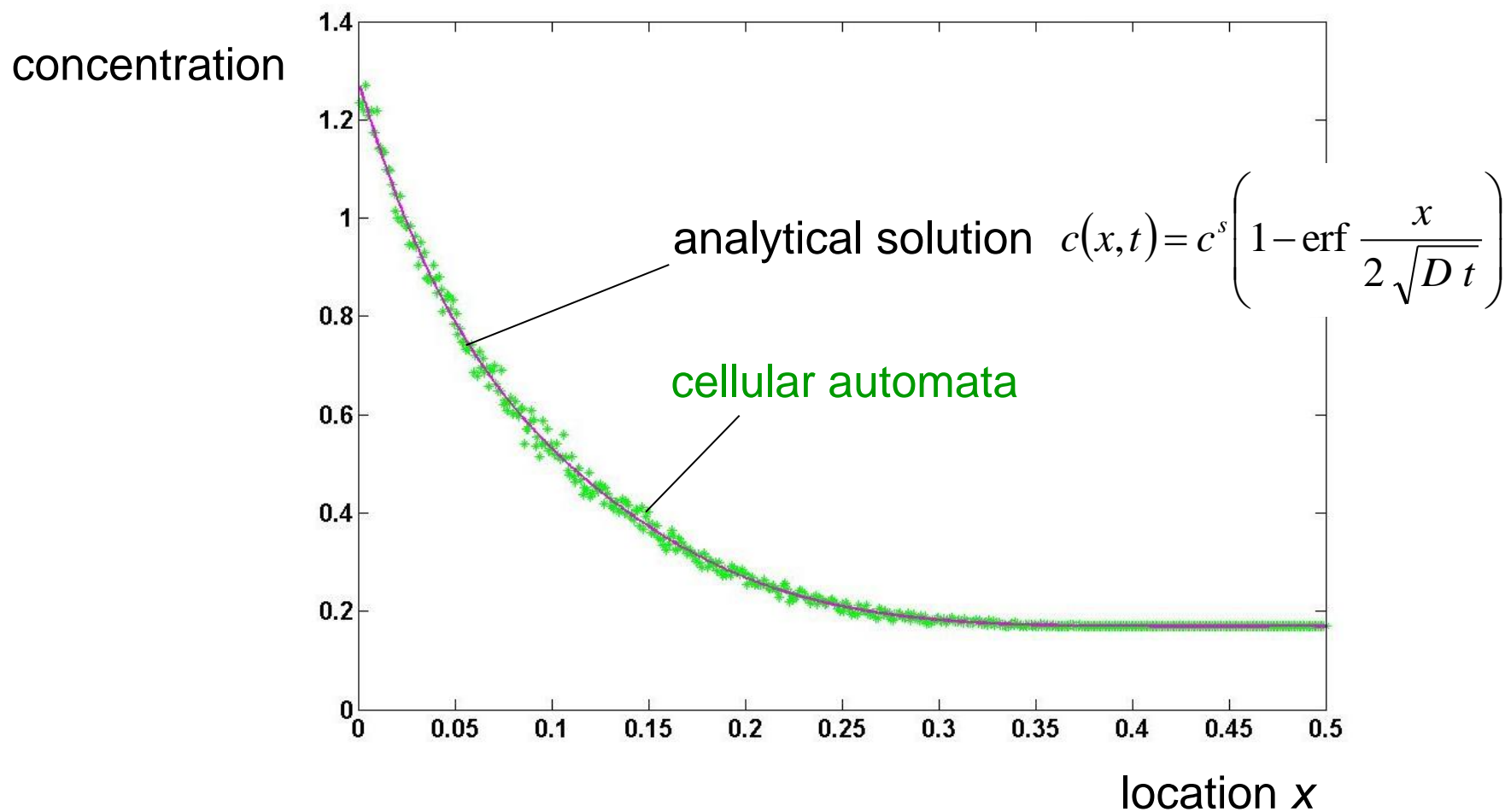
$$p_0 + 2p + p_2 = 1$$

## Diffusion Coefficient

$$D_N = \frac{\lambda^2}{\tau} \left( \frac{1}{4(p + p_2)} - \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{\lambda^2}{\tau} \left( \frac{p + p_0}{4(1 - p - p_0)} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda = \frac{X}{n_x}, \tau = \frac{T}{n_t}$$



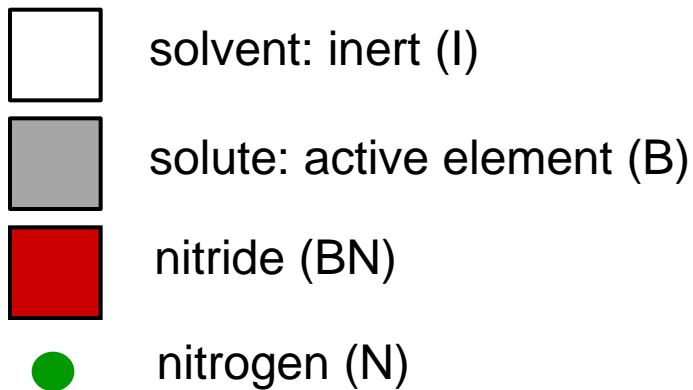
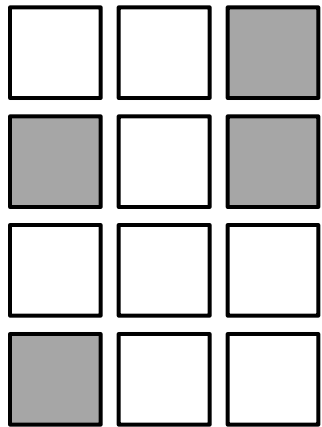
## Diffusion Profile (Chopard and Droz)





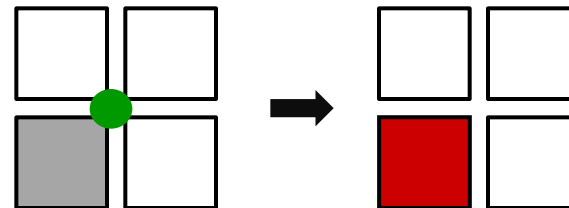
# The Cellular Automata Approach for Internal Precipitation (Zhou and Wei)

## Initialization



**Diffusion:** N stepwise to the right  
B every 20th iteration to the left

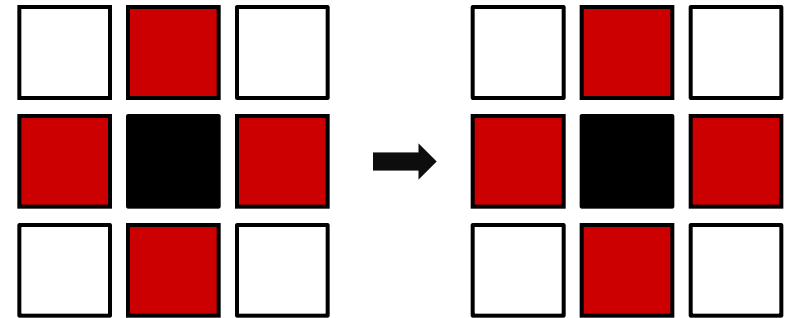
**Transition:**  $B+N \Rightarrow BN$ :  
(Implementation ChemApp possible)



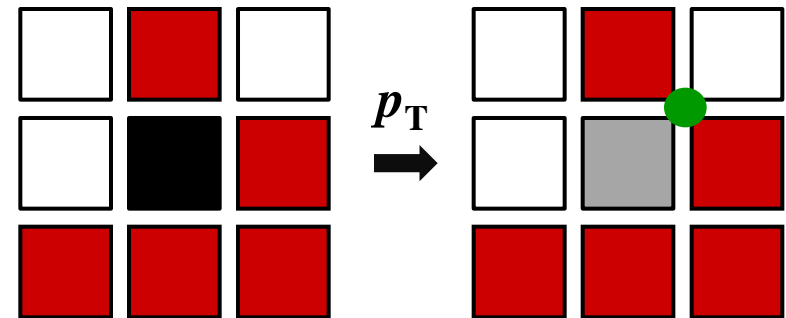


# The Cellular Automata Approach for Internal Precipitation (Zhou and Wei)

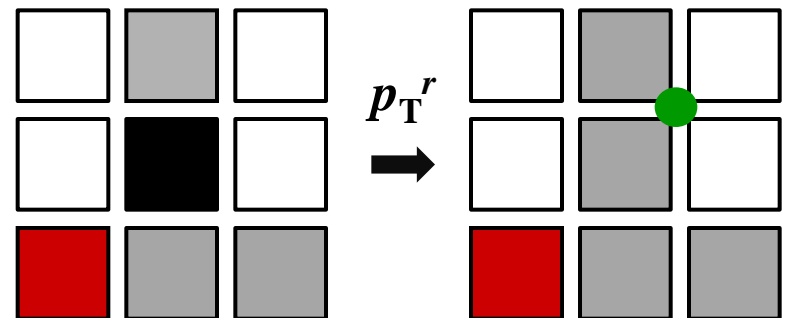
Stable state (AN)



Transition  $p_T$ :



Transition  $p_T^r$ :



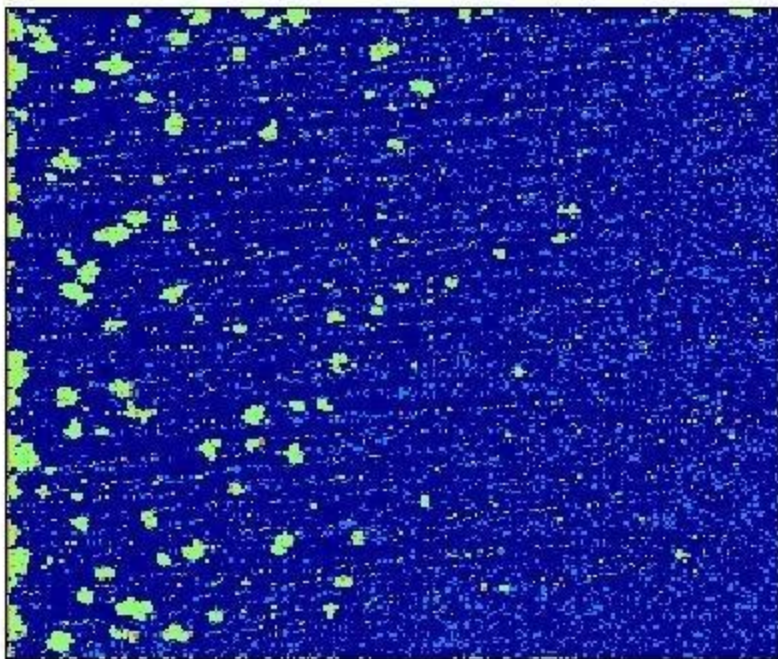




# *Internal Precipitation (Zhou and Wei) + N- Diffusion (Chopard and Droz)*

(increased B counter diffusion)

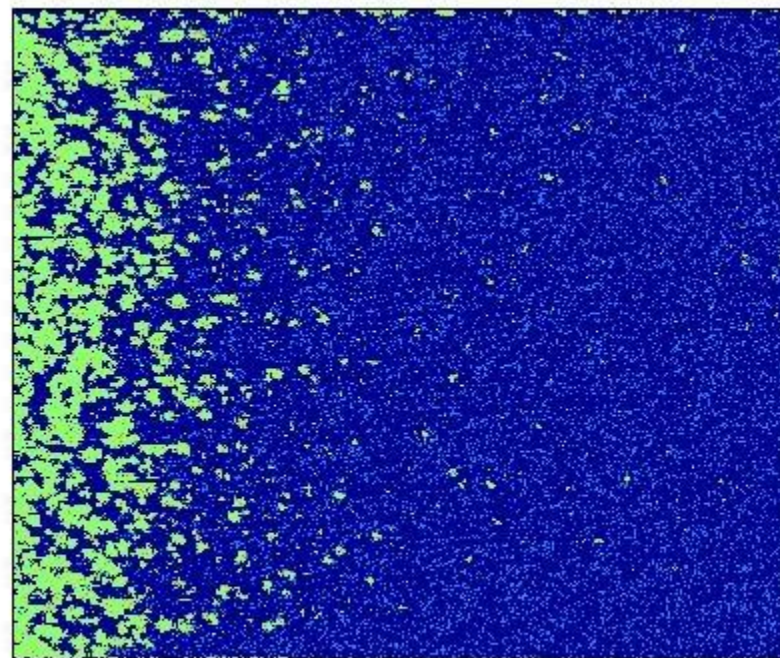
location y  
(arbitrary units)



512 x 512 cells  
20000 iterations

location x  
(arbitrary units)

location y  
(arbitrary units)



512 x 512 cells  
1500 iterations

location x  
(arbitrary units)

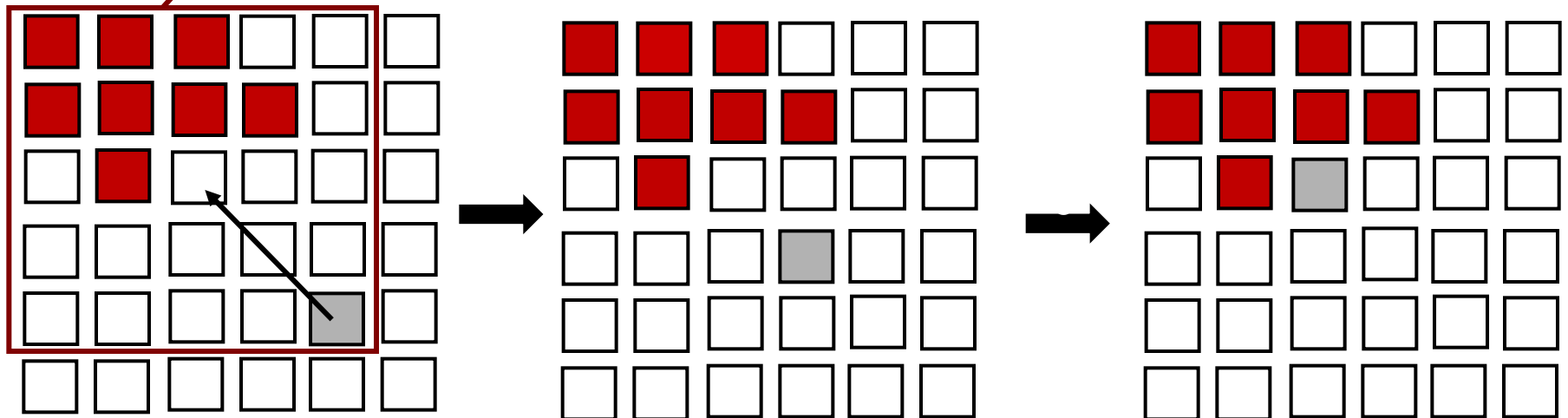
# Precipitation + N Diffusion (Chopard and Droz) + B Diffusion in the Internal Precipitation Zone

□ solvent (inert)

■ active element B

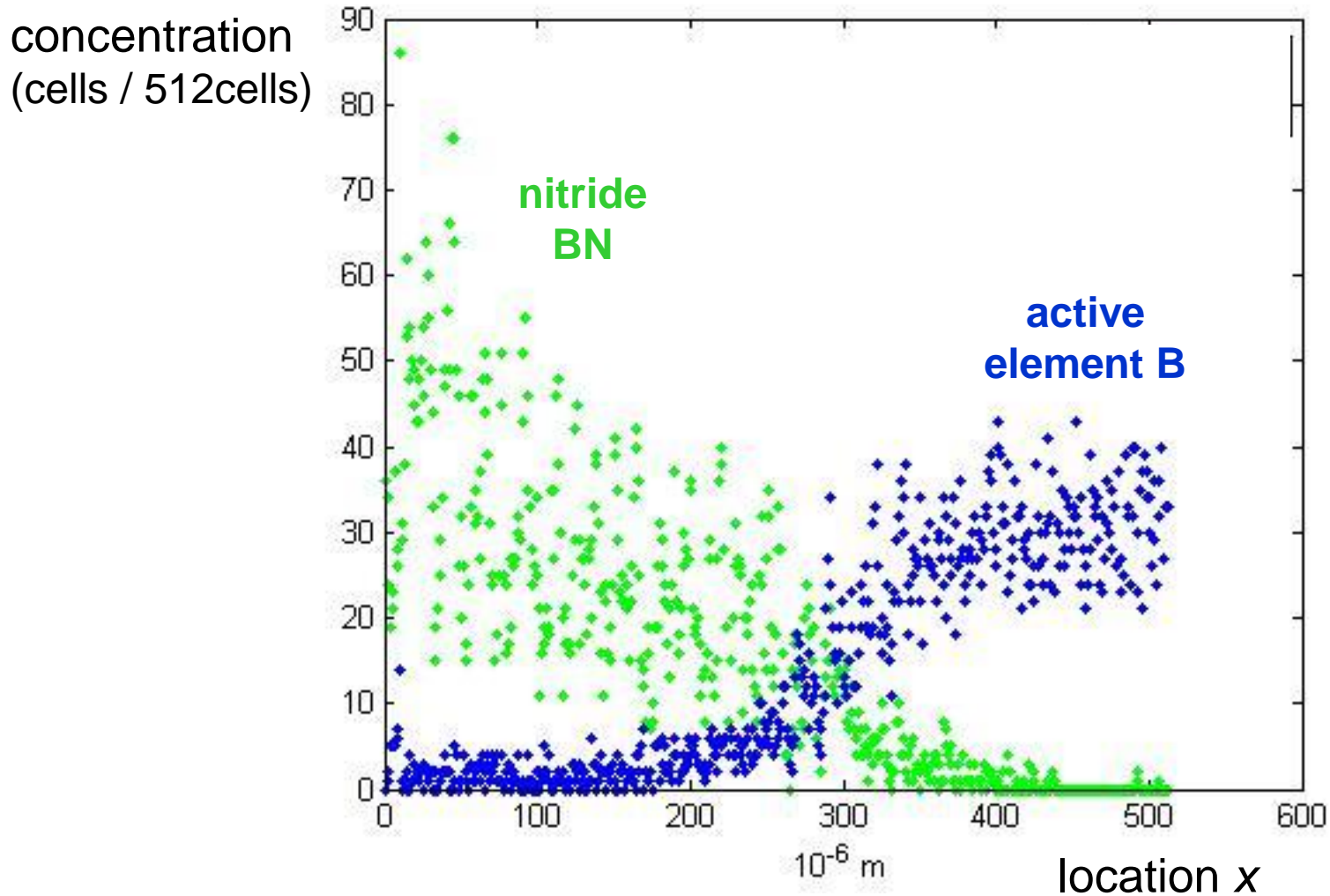
■ nitride (BN)

nitride sink (min 5 nitrides within  $R=5$ cells)





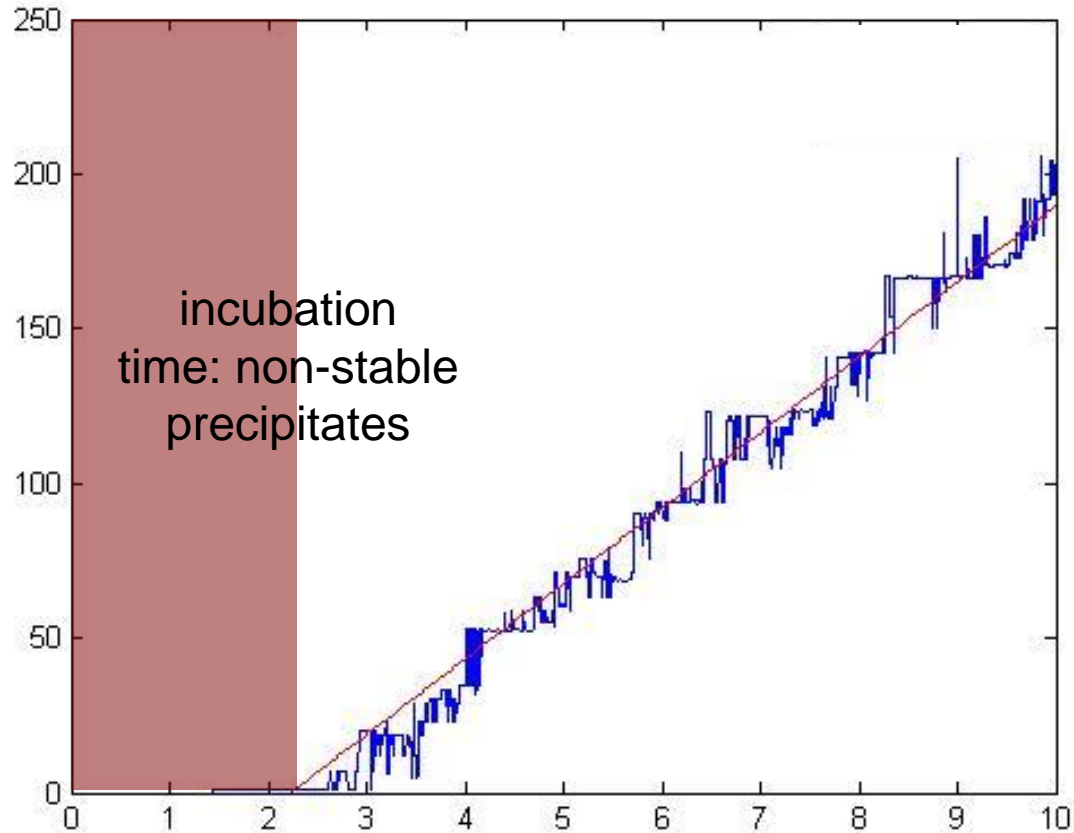
# *Precipitation + B Diffusion in the Internal Precipitation Zone – Concentration Profile*





# *Precipitation + B Diffusion in the Internal Precipitation Zone – Penetration Depth*

penetration depth  $\xi$  [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]



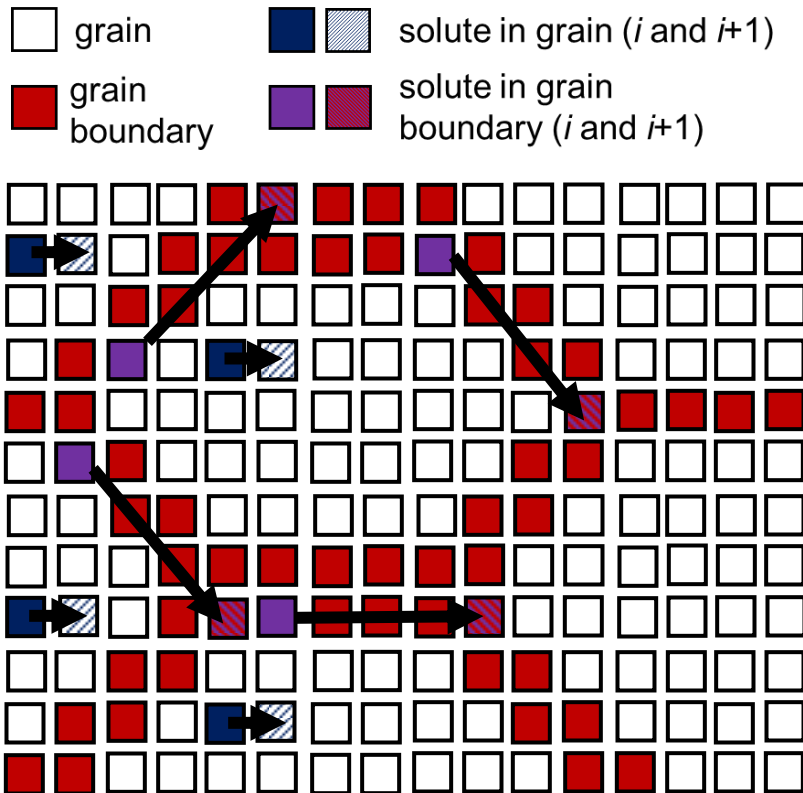
(Ni-20Cr-6Ti  
1000°C, N<sub>2</sub>)

square root of exp. time [ $\text{h}^{-0.5}$ ]

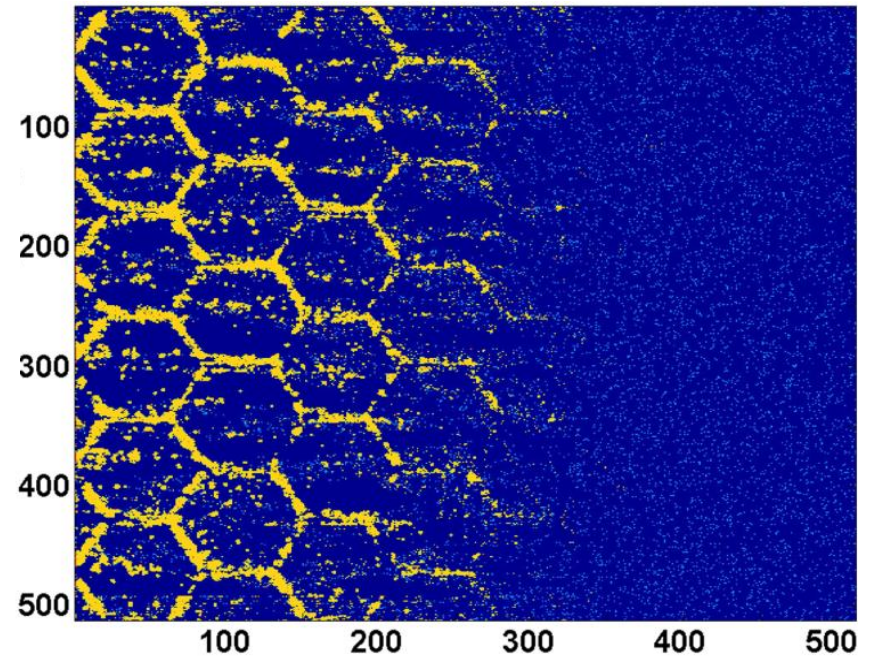


# Grain boundary diffusion

$$D_{GB} > D_{bulk}$$



location  $y$   
(arbitrary units)



512 x 512 cells  
3000 iterations  
 $T_{tot}=100h, T=800^{\circ}C$

location  $x$   
(arbitrary units)



## *Conclusions and Future Aspects*

- Classical Wagner theory is limited to special scenarios
- Finite Difference: easy combination with ChemApp
- Cellular Automata:
  - nucleation and growth
  - 3D effects: various diffusion paths (e.g., GB/bulk diffusion)
- Problems to be solved:
  - combination of small and large concentrations
  - implementation of ChemApp

more info: [u.krupp@hs-osnabrueck.de](mailto:u.krupp@hs-osnabrueck.de)